

# BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION



## **Resource Protection Committee** **Active Notice of Overhead Power Lines** **May 12, 2015**

- IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM.
  - Although RPFs are required to disclose overhead power lines in the course of operations for their Notice of Intent, notification is not usually forwarded to the utilities. If the utilities were made aware, they would be able to perform work necessary to ensure public safety.

- GATHERING RELEVANT LEGAL INFORMATION.

Authority: PRC §740, §4551

Reference: Identifying statutes, court decisions or other provisions of law implemented, interpreted or made specific by each proposed regulation.

Consistency: Identifying other statutes, court decisions or other provisions of law, including regulations, that may apply to the matters covered by the proposed regulations.

- GATHERING RELEVANT FACTUAL INFORMATION.

Gather and evaluate all relevant facts and information relating to the proposed rulemaking. Identify any materials to be relied on in proposing the regulations. Establish a rational basis in the rulemaking record for the regulation. The record needs to contain such evidence as a reasonable person reasoning from the evidence would accept as adequate. (Gov. Code, §§ 11346.2, subd. (b)(l) & 11349, subd. (a)).

- DRAFT THE PROPOSED TEXT OF THE REGULATION.

### **895.1 Definition**

**Utility Contact List** means the list that identifies those Utility Companies that must be notified or consulted pursuant to the Forest Practice Rules. The Department shall maintain this list utilizing information and advice provided by the Utility Companies. Each Company shall identify one (1) appropriate contact to be notified or consulted during preparation or review of Timber Harvesting Plans. The list shall be posted on the Department's internet site to make it readily available to RPFs and others needing the list to comply with these rules. The list shall also be available by mail

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through written request to the appropriate CAL FIRE Review Team Offices. The Utility Company shall be responsible for providing accurate contact information. Should an update be required, each update will reflect a new revision date, so users of the list may identify which version of the list they were using.

## 1032.7 Plan Submittal and Notice of Intent

(a) A plan shall be submitted by the person who owns, leases, contracts, or operates on timberland to harvest timber for commercial purposes.

(b) Where the land or timber is owned or operated by parties other than the person executing the plan the person submitting the plan shall give prompt written notice of such plan to those parties.

(c) The RPF preparing the plan shall submit to the Director, with the plan, a Notice of Intent to Harvest Timber (Notice of Intent): (1) if any proposed boundary lies within 300 feet of any property not owned by the timberland owner, or (2) any plan amendment that changes a plan boundary so that the new boundary lies within 300 ft. of property not owned by the timberland owner, or (3) with any plan amendment that changes the silvicultural method if a Notice of Intent was required for the plan by condition (1) or (2) above.

(d) A Notice of Intent shall include the following information:

(1) The names of the timberland owner, the RPF who prepared the Plan, and the Plan Submitter.

(2) The location of the plan area by county, section, township, and range, and the approximate direction and distance to the plan area from the nearest community or well-known landmark.

(3) The name of and distance from the nearest perennial stream and major watercourse flowing through or downstream from the Plan area.

(4) The acres proposed to be harvested.

(5) The regeneration methods and intermediate treatments to be used.

(6) The estimated earliest date that the Director may approve the plan. This is 15 days from receipt of the Plan by the Department, except in counties for which rules and regulations have been adopted pursuant to Sec. 4516.5 and 4516.8 of the PRC where the earliest date the Director may approve the Plan is 45 days after the receipt of the plan by the Department.

(7) A statement that the public may review the plan at the appropriate CAL FIRE Review Team Office and that a copy of the plan may be obtained from the Department upon payment of the applicable charge.

(8) A map which provides the approximate boundary of the THP area, a map legend, and a scale. This map shall be posted with the Notice of Intent.

(9) A statement that questions or concerns regarding the specific plan should be directed to the applicable CAL FIRE Review Team Office for public input incorporation into an Official Response Document.

(10) A statement of whether there is a known overhead electric power line on the proposed plan area except lines from transformers to service panels.

(e) The RPF preparing the plan shall furnish to the Department at the time of

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submission of the plan, the names and mailing addresses of all property owners within 300 ft. of the plan boundary. Either a list compiled from the latest equalized assessment roll or a list provided by a title company doing business in California compiled within 60 days of submission of the plan shall be deemed sufficient for compliance with the subsection.

(f) The RPF preparing the plan shall furnish to the Department at the time of submission of the plan, the names and mailing addresses of Utility Companies operating overhead electrical power lines within 200 feet of the plan boundary. This information shall be obtained from the Utility Contact List.

~~(f)~~ (g) The Department shall mail copies of the Notice of Intent within two working days of receipt of the plan to all persons identified in (e) and (f) above.

~~(g)~~ (h) Prior to plan submission, the person submitting the Plan shall post a copy of the Notice of Intent including a map as described in (d)(8) at a conspicuous location on the public road nearest the Plan site. Said Notice of Intent shall be on colored paper or identified with colored flagging so as to be easily visible to the public.

- ALTERNATIVES.

## **Alternative 1, Contents of Plan**

### **1034 Contents of Plan**

(hh) If any utility lines exist within 200 feet of the harvest boundary, the name of the operator of the overhead electric power lines as determined from the Utility Contact List will be provided to the Department.

These include, but are not limited to:

- Alternatives that are less burdensome and equally effective in achieving the goal of the authorizing statute (Gov. Code, § 11346.2, subd. (b)(4)(A));
- Alternatives that would lessen any adverse impact on small business (Gov. Code, § 11346.2, subd. (b)(4)(B));
- Any alternatives that are proposed by the public or considered by the agency as less burdensome and equally effective (see Gov. Code, § 11346.9, subd. (a)(4));
- Any alternatives that are proposed by the public and/or considered by the agency that would be more effective (see Gov. Code, § 11346.9, subd. (a)(4)); and
- Any alternatives that are proposed by the public and/or

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considered by the agency that would be more cost effective and equally effective in effectuating the purpose of the statute (see Gov. Code, § 11346.9, subd. (a)(4)).

- Alternatives that may lessen adverse impact on business may involve (A) establishing differing compliance or reporting requirements or timetables that take into account the resources available to businesses, (B) consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements, (C) exemptions or partial exemptions, and (D) the use of performance standards rather than prescriptive standards (see below).

**Performance Standard v. Prescriptive Standard:** "In the case of a regulation that would mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment or prescribe specific actions or procedures, the imposition of performance standards shall be considered as an alternative." (Gov. Code, § 11346.2, subds. (b)(4) & (b)(4)(A))

**"Prescriptive standard"** means a regulation that specifies the sole means of compliance with a performance standard by specific actions, measurements, or other quantifiable means. (Gov. Code, § 11342.590)

**"Performance standard"** means a regulation that describes an objective with the criteria stated for achieving the objective. (Gov. Code, § 11342.570)

You must explain the reason for rejecting the performance standard.

Select the Preferred Alternative: Once you have identified and evaluated any alternatives, select the preferred alternative from the reasonable alternatives, if any, that have been proposed and/or considered, and for each of the reasonable alternatives not selected, draft an explanation of the reasons for rejecting that alternative. The description of each proposed/considered alternative and the explanation for rejecting each one will be used in drafting the ISOR. (Gov. Code, § 11346.2, subd. (b)(4))

- DETERMINE PURPOSE AND DEMONSTRATE THE NECESSITY FOR THE DRAFTED REGULATIONS.

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed regulations should reflect the intent of the statute(s) being implemented, interpreted, or made specific in the rulemaking. How do the proposed regulations address the problem identified by the agency? To find the purpose of a statute, look first to the words of the pertinent statute(s). Sometimes the purpose is set out at the beginning of the chapter or article, or maybe in un-codified statutory provisions. If the purpose is not set out in the language of the statute, purpose may be gleaned from legislative history

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materials. If you can't identify the purpose from either the words or the legislative history, sometimes the purpose is obvious from what the statute addresses. You may sometimes find the purpose of a statute stated in a court decision.

Describe the benefits of the regulation. The purpose of the statute may be to achieve some benefit or goal. (For example, the purposes of the APA are to provide a meaningful opportunity for public participation and to create a record for judicial review.) So, think about and state the benefits and goals of the statute you are planning to implement, interpret, or make specific.

**Necessity:** An agency must be able to demonstrate why each provision of the regulation is reasonably necessary to effectuate the purposes of the statute(s) or other provisions of law the regulation implements, interprets or makes specific, AND is reasonably necessary to address the problem the agency intends to address. In other words, explain why the agency is addressing the problem and effectuating the purpose of the statute in this particular way.

**Documents Relied Upon:** Identify each technical, theoretical, empirical study, report, or similar document, if any, the agency is relying upon to support the necessity for the regulation. Sometimes an explanatory statement will itself be adequate. Other times the statement or one or more of its parts will have to be demonstrated by the use of studies, reports, documents or other material relied upon by the agency. The bottom line is that the rulemaking record must contain substantial evidence to demonstrate that the regulation is reasonably necessary to effectuate the purposes of the statute(s) or other provisions of law the regulation implements, interprets or makes specific, AND address the problem the agency intends to address.

- **ANALYZE THE FISCAL /ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE REGULATION.**

**Economic Impact Assessment (EIA):** Except for major regulations (discussed above), the agency must prepare an Economic Impact Analysis/Assessment (BIA) that analyzes whether and to what extent the regulation will affect:

- the creation or elimination of jobs within the State of California,
- the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within the State of California,
- the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the

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State of California, and

- the benefits of the regulation to the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment.

This assessment must be based upon adequate information concerning the consequences of the proposed regulation. (See Gov. Code, § 11346.3, subd. (e)). In other words, the BIA must contain sufficient information to explain how the agency reached the stated results.

**Cost Impacts On Representative Person or Business:** Describe the cost impacts known to the agency that a representative private person or business would incur to comply with the proposed regulation. This is "the amount of reasonable range of direct costs, or a description of the type and extent of direct costs, that a representative private person or business necessarily incurs in reasonable compliance with the proposed action." (Gov. Code, §

**Reporting Requirement:** Determine whether the proposed regulation establishes a reporting requirement that applies to business. If a reporting requirement created by the regulation does apply to business, your agency must include a finding the NOPA that the requirement "is necessary for the health, safety, or welfare of the people of the state that the regulation apply to businesses."

**Warning:** If you do not include this finding, the reporting requirement does not apply to business. (Gov. Code, § 11346.3 subd. (d))

**Effects on Small Business:** Determine whether the selected alternative affects small business using the definition of "small business" in the APA at section Government Code section 11342.610. If you decide the selected alternative does not affect small business, prepare a brief explanation of the reasons for that decision. (1CCR 4)

- **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.**

**Consistency With Existing State Regulations:** The agency must evaluate whether the proposed regulation is inconsistent or incompatible with existing state regulations. (Gov. Code, § 11346.5, subd. (a)(3)(D))

**Federal Conformity:** Determine whether the proposed regulation differs substantially from an existing comparable federal regulation or statute. If it does, draft a brief description of the significant differences and identify the full citation of the federal regulations or statutes. This information will be used when drafting the NOPA. (Gov. Code, § 11346.5, subd. (a)(3)(B))

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Identical to Existing Federal Regulation: Determine whether the proposed regulation is identical to previously adopted /amended federal regulation. If so, then include a statement to that effect in the NOPA along with a citation to where an explanation of the provisions of the regulation can be found. If applicable, this is sufficient to satisfy the ISOR and FSOR requirements. (Gov. Code §§ 11346.2, subd. (c) and 11346.9, subd. (c))

**Efforts to Avoid Duplication or Conflict with Federal Regulations:** This evaluation applies only to a department, board, or commission within the Environmental Protection Agency, the Natural Resources Agency, or the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Draft a description of your efforts to avoid unnecessary duplication or conflict with federal regulations addressing the same issues. You may adopt differing regulations "upon a finding of one or more of the following justifications:

a) The differing state regulations are authorized by law; or b) The cost of differing state regulations is justified by the benefit to human health, public safety, public welfare, or the environment. This evaluation must be made available to the public. (Gov. Code, § 11346.2, subd. (b)(6))